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121736Z Nov 03

UNCLAS ANKARA 007040

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/SE AND PM/RSAT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [MASS TU](#)

SUBJECT: THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFER OF USS RAZORBACK: MFA
PROVIDES RATIONALE FOR REQUEST TO TRANSFER TITLE IN TURKEY

REF: A) ANKARA 6811 AND PREVIOUS

[1](#)1. This is an action request. See Para 4.

[1](#)2. On November 10, the Embassy received a diplomatic note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that provides the GOT's rationale for wanting to transfer title of the vessel USS Razorback in Turkey (the dip note was faxed to EUR/SE November 10).

[1](#)3. Begin text of MFA note no. 2003/ALGY/451294:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and with reference to the Embassy's Note No: 1583 dated October 15, 2003 regarding the transfer of TCG Murat Reis/USS Razorback to USS Razorback/TCG Murat Reis Association in North Little Rock/Arkansas for use as a static display has the honor to convey the following:

a) The Ministry appreciates the approval by US authorities of the request to transfer the said submarine to the Association resident in North Little Rock/Arkansas.

b) However, as the natural outcome of the understanding that no legal and financial liability will be attributed to the Turkish Government during the transfer of the submarine, the Ministry kindly requests the transfer of title of the submarine to the said Association be realized in Turkey.

In view of the foregoing and in order to realize a transfer that will eventually form yet another link in Turkish-American friendship that all those in and also those visiting North Little Rock may benefit from, the Ministry kindly requests the reconsideration of the United States authorities regarding location of the transfer of the title of the TCG Murat Reis/USS Razorback.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the United States of America the assurance of its highest consideration.

Ankara, November 7, 2003.
End Text.

[1](#)4. Action request: Post appreciates the Department's willingness to work with the GOT and the association to finalize this request. While we are disappointed that the MFA's diplomatic note provides little in the way of additional justification behind the Turkish military's position of transferring title of the vessel in Turkey, we hope the Department, together with the association and GOT officials, can find a way to approve the transfer in a manner that is acceptable to Turkish officials and that is in accordance with US laws and regulations.

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